

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection



**Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary &
Underwater Preserve**
145 Water Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-8805

**Alpena County
George N. Fletcher
Public Library**
211 N. First Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-6188 ext. 17



NOAA ocean **SERVICE**

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection is housed at the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. The Collection comprises:

- over 1,000 published works
- 65,000 photographs
- 56 linear feet of vertical files
- 40 feet of periodicals
- 60,000 data cards
- 100 navigation charts
- 350 shipbuilding plans
- manuscripts and ephemera

The TBNMS Research Collection is open to the public, but non-circulating. Please call 989-356-6188 ext. 17 for collection hours or to set up an appointment with the collection archivist.

A Unique Partnership

In 2004 the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary & Underwater Preserve established an agreement with the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library to jointly manage the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, a notable collection of resources related to Great Lakes history.

A Generous Donation

The collection was amassed over a period of more than forty years by historian C. Patrick Labadie. Labadie began researching 19th Century Great Lakes watercraft while in college at the University of Detroit in 1958. When he retired from a long career in various Great Lakes maritime museums in 2000, Labadie had amassed one of the largest private collections of Great Lakes history in existence. Labadie and his wife June contributed the collection to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2003.

A World-Class Resource

The focus of Mr. Labadie's study was 19th Century Great Lakes wooden shipbuilding technology, but the Research Collection includes information about such diverse subjects as Great Lakes ports and waterways, docks, cargoes, ships, shipbuilders, - owners and fleets, machinery and rigging, notable maritime personalities and shipwrecks. A special feature of the collection is a card index listing most of the ships on the Great Lakes before the turn of the Century, a roster of some 15,000 vessels, complete with descriptive data and highlights of the ships' careers and their ultimate losses.

Collection Use

In addition to providing the historical basis for the Sanctuary's archaeological research, the collection allows Great Lakes historians and Library patrons access to documents and photographs not previously available to the public. Ongoing digitization efforts will provide a comprehensive collection index and make available large portions of the collection online.